



Issue NO. 25

November 2019

THE DRUM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MICHIGAN JOINT TASK FORCE ON JAIL AND PRETRIAL INCARCERATION

Tuesday, Nov. 19th

Task Force meeting

Meeting: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Public testimony: 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Lansing (public) Boji Tower, MI

Senate Hearing Room - Ground Floor, 124 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48933.

DETROIT COOPERATIVE SHOWCASE

Wednesday, November 20th

6:00PM-8:00PM

Commons Cafe

7900 Mack Ave.

Detroit, MI 48214

Detroit Community Wealth Fund Presents a showcase of cooperative businesses in Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park. We are also celebrating the graduation of our Co-op Academy - nine emerging cooperative enterprises in Detroit. Meet the co-ops, play games, win prizes, and learn about cooperatives.

FREE | Light refreshments will be provided

PROJECT REENTRY END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 8th

3:00PM-5:00PM

State Appellate Defender Office

645 Griswold St. Suite 3300

Detroit, MI 48226

Join us to share space with friends and members of the community before the start of the new year. Friends & family welcome. This event is dedicated to the memory of our friend, Eric Cammon.

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO ERIC CAMMON

Dear Readers,

We are saddened to report on the death of Eric Cammon, but we are honored to dedicate this issue of The Drum to him. Mr. Cammon was one of the earlier members of the juvenile lifer community to come home. He discharged from the MDOC on June 13, 2019, so he died a completely free man. Mr. Cammon was featured in Issue No. 4 of The Drum, in February 2018, where he advised his community that “family is everything, money is nothing; work on being rich with your heart.”

With love,

The Project Reentry Team



CAREERS & OPPORTUNITIES

DETROIT JUSTICE CENTER

1420 Washington Blvd #220
Detroit, MI 48226

Associate Executive Director:

The Detroit Justice Center (DJC) seeks a dynamic, experienced, and innovative leader for the newly created Associate Executive Director (AED) position. The AED will help lead the organization to greater impact and effectiveness.

Grants & Foundation Relations Intern:

The Detroit Justice Center is seeking a Grants and Foundation Relations Intern to join our dynamic team. The Grants and Foundation Relations Intern will gain experience and competency with grant management, as well as best practice for foundation stewardship. Working directly with the Development Manager, this internship will center on foundation research and proposal writing, as well as grants administration and reporting.

For more information about job postings at the Detroit Justice Center visit <https://www.detroitjustice.org/careers-1>

DETROIT TRAINING CENTER

5151 Loraine St
Detroit, MI 48208
313-221-5876

The Detroit Training Center offers a variety of training and certification programs for those interested in learning a new trade. Their programs include:

- Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program
- Blight Removal Training Program
- Commercial Driver's License Training Program
- Skilled Construction Laborer Training Program
- Facility Maintenance Training Program
- Logistics Training Program
- Diesel Mechanic Training Program

Anyone on parole can qualify through the Michigan Offender Success program. Your parole agent should have a form called CFJ-140 for this purpose. Depending on age or disability, you may also qualify for funding from Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Other opportunities may be available via the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation.

FOR ASSISTANCE APPLYING TO JOBS, REFERENCES, OR TO BE CONNECTED TO EVENTS AND RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE REACH OUT TO PROJECT REENTRY.

THANK
YOU!



Thank you A'Narris for facilitating last month's workshop on healthcare and a huge thanks to everyone who participated! Project Reentry would also like to thank Avalon Bakery and On the Rise Bakery for donating delicious baked goods and pastries.

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, FACILITATING, OR CONTRIBUTING?

EMAIL PROJECT REENTRY AT REENTRY@SADO.ORG OR

SEND A LETTER TO:

PROJECT REENTRY

STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER OFFICE

645 GRISWOLD, SUITE 3300

DETROIT, MI 48226

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT

JAMIL PEPI ALLEN-BEY

CAME HOME NOVEMBER 2018

HOMETOWN

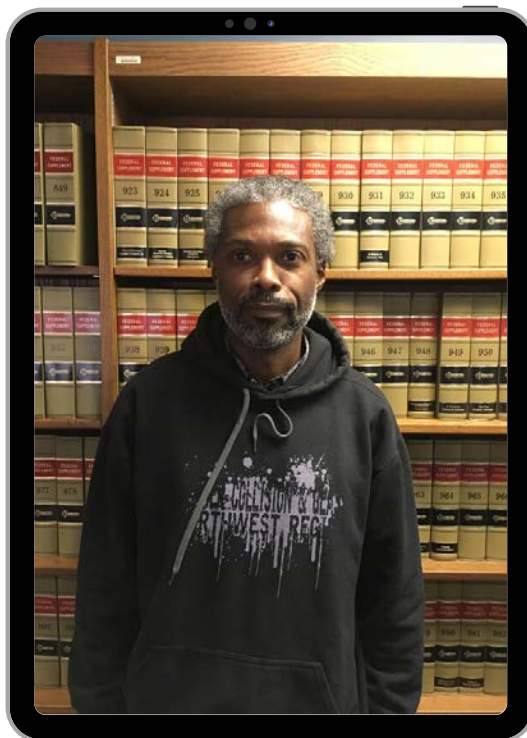
Detroit, MI

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

I enjoy working with young people, outdoors, site-seeing, looking at nature and trees, biking, and walking. Reading and studying. I like studying and reading books on the struggle of criminal justice.

STRUGGLES AFTER INCARCERATION

Health and healthcare related issues, transportation, accepting that I've outgrown many childhood friends and family members. Being resolved to create new friends and family members that share my values and interests. Creating new spaces that have the same values and interest. Surviving without a wage-earning job so I can do the work that I want to do which is community service and volunteering. Try to maintain my passion without earning a wage.



SUCCESS AFTER INCARCERATION

Building great new relationships with individuals and groups. Having more reliable transportation. Embracing my new self without all the fears of being rejected after incarceration. Being my true self, my authentic self.

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Read and study to become critical thinkers, creative thinkers, and the solution rather than the problem.

MEET THE TEAM



Briana Tetsch

HOMETOWN

Los Angeles, CA

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

I am very excited to be a part of the Project Reentry team. I have learned so much in the past few months since joining and look forward to continuing to help folks and spending the next year with you all!

"Nothing works unless you do." - Maya Angelou

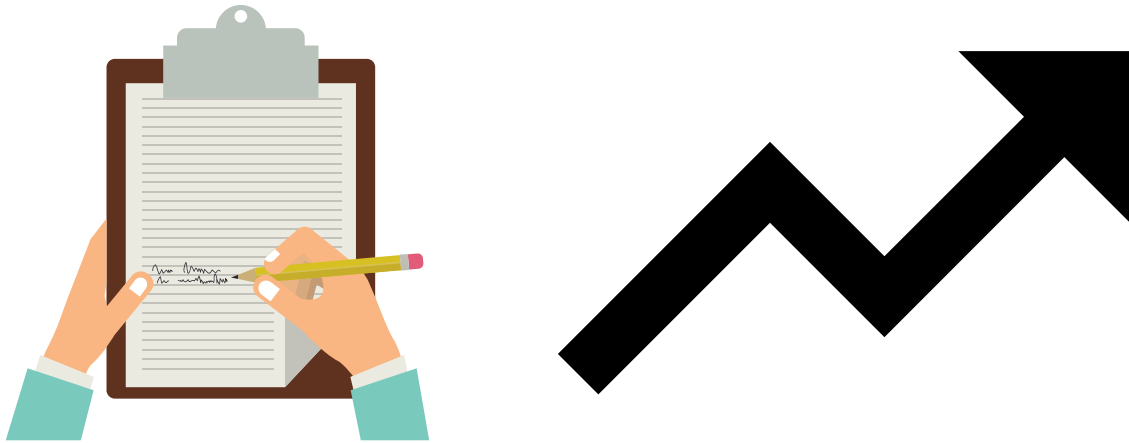


"Social Work is Social Justice"

RAISE THE AGE: GOVERNOR WHITMER SIGNS BILL INTO LAW

On October 31st, 2019, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed legislation enacting the Raise the Age bill into law. Prior to the passage of this legislation, Michigan was one of the four remaining states to not adopt Raise the Age, along with Texas, Georgia, and Wisconsin. With the passage of Raise the Age in Michigan, juvenile court jurisdiction will be raised from 17 to 18 years of age. Backing the policy change was a tremendous amount of research highlighting the detrimental impacts of prosecuting youth as adults. When youth are prosecuted as adults, there is a 34% greater likelihood that youth will reoffend. They will earn 40% less over their lifetimes, which affects state revenue taxes, and will lead to lifelong barriers in education, housing, and employment. Children of color are overrepresented in the current system. 23% of Michigan 17-year-olds are children of color, however 53% of the 17-year-olds entering state correction facilities are children of color. Youth who are incarcerated receive about five and a half months less of education per year in comparison to the average high school student.

The House and Senate approved the legislation after funding concerns were addressed. The state originally wanted to split the new costs to the juvenile justice system 50-50 with the counties, but the counties did not want to bear all the additional costs of moving 17-year-olds to the juvenile system. To compromise, the state will now fully reimburse counties for those costs. An increase of 7,564 juvenile cases is expected after the implementation of Raise the Age in 2021.



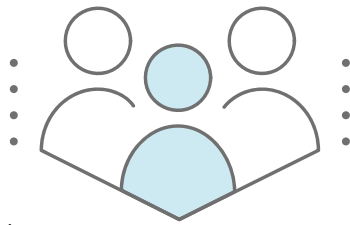
Source: Raise the Age MI Fact Sheet: <https://www.raisetheagemi.org/publications>

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE FAIR CHANCE HOUSING ORDINANCE IN DETROIT: WHAT DOES THE FINE PRINT SAY AND WILL IT DO DETROITERS JUSTICE?

In February 2019, Detroit passed the Fair Chance Housing Ordinance, which banned the box that asked people about their criminal history on housing rental applications. This policy went into effect in August 2019. Under the ordinance, landlords with five or more rental properties cannot ask applicants to disclose their criminal history during the initial screening process. However, landlords still have the discretion to submit a background check on applicants after they are approved. In making the decision to grant or deny a lease to someone based on their criminal record, landlords are supposed to consider the nature of the crime, the time since the offense occurred, and evidence of the applicant's rehabilitation. If landlords have considered the above factors, they are at liberty to deny a person housing, even after the person is approved in other respects. The ordinance's goal is to prevent persons with a criminal record from automatically being denied, but it still allows landlords to decide based on a person's past. Renters who feel they've been discriminated against can file a complaint with the city's Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department, which will investigate the claim.

WORKER COOPERATIVES: LED BY THE COMMUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY

Worker cooperatives are values-driven businesses that put worker and community benefit at the core of their purpose. The model has proven to be an effective tool for creating and maintaining sustainable, dignified jobs; generating wealth; improving the quality of life of workers; and promoting community and local economic development, particularly for people who lack access to business ownership or sustainable work options.



WHAT IS A WORKER COOPERATIVE?

workers become owners

7 Principles of a Worker Cooperative:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic membership control
3. Member economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community

OP-ED ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM BY ELIZABETH NESBITT

The US incarcerates more people than any other country in the world (1). Currently, there are approximately 1.5 million individuals incarcerated in state and federal prisons alone (2). This doesn't even count the number of people who are detained in other types of facilities like jails and immigrant detention centers. Across the nation, it seems that people are catching on that this practice of mass incarceration just isn't sustainable.

The national conversation about prison reform has become stuck on one specific character: "The Nonviolent Drug Offender." These individuals have almost become a myth that is spoken about over and over and morphed to fit various agendas. It is tempting to think that the answer to mass incarceration could be so simple. However, simply reducing the number of nonviolent drug offenders in prisons would be a band aid fix for a complex problem.

In reality, only 20% of people incarcerated in US federal and state prisons are drug offenders (3), and not all of those individuals would be considered "nonviolent." This is not to say that making changes to the way nonviolent drug offenders are handled in the criminal justice system is wrong, in fact it would make a huge impact for many people. Rather, the issue is that this would still leave over one million people incarcerated with no real avenue for decarceration.

Here is the complex part that people often avoid: people with violent offenses on their records are not less deserving of humane and just treatment than those with nonviolent offenses. Some advocates of prison reform feel that addressing lower risk topics like drug charges first will chip away at larger goals as well as introduce people to the language and ideas of the movement. However, not addressing the reality of who is in prison is not strategic productivity, it is avoidance. We will not achieve decarceration by furthering stigma towards the majority of people currently incarcerated. Meaningful progress towards decarceration will be achieved through comprehensive legislative action that includes the difficult and unpopular conversations. Sentencing reforms, like getting rid of mandatory minimum sentences, capping sentence lengths, and applying these changes retroactively will be instrumental in decarceration efforts.

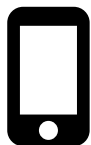
Finally, don't forget about those inside. When your only frame of reference of who incarcerated people are is the crime that they were charged with, it can be easy to accept the criminal justice system at face value. Embrace people who have been to prison into your communities as equal partners. Bryan Stevenson, a lawyer, activist, and author wrote "Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done." This grace extends beyond the myth of the nonviolent drug offender.

(1) Prison Policy Initiative <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>

(2) Vera Institute of Justice <https://www.vera.org/publications/people-in-prison-in-2018>

(3) US Department of Justice <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/p13.pdf>

APPS OF THE MONTH



Check out these self help apps!

COACH.ME

Coach.me is an app that gives you proper tools to create and manage your habits. If you are looking to improve your mindset, apply positive reinforcement, and accountability, then Coach.me is the perfect app for you.

SIMPLE HABIT MEDITATION

This app is specifically made to teach and help you meditate. The good thing about this app is that it not only teaches how to properly meditate but also shows you how to make it your daily habit to improve yourself.

REMENTE

Personal development and self-help app that can help you be organized, focused, and productive to reach your goals. The app has several different modules within it like goal plans, personal development articles, journal, planner, goal settings guide and tips on good communication and leadership.

READ/WATCH/LISTEN

READ



THE INCONVENIENT INDIAN

A Curious Account of Native People in North America by Thomas King dismantles the romanticization and misconceptions of the origins of the Thanksgiving holiday. This native author challenges readers to reassess the "truth" of Thanksgiving.

WATCH



THE BOONDOCKS

In honor of the recent passing of actor, comedian, and Detroit native, John Witherspoon, watch The Boondocks. John Witherspoon voices Grandad in this social satire adult animation series, which comments on black culture, the interactions between many cultures and ethnicities, as well as provides a sociopolitical analysis of blacks in suburban society.

LISTEN



It's the holiday season! And radio stations are prepared to keep you in the holiday spirit. Turn your radio stations to 100.3 WNIC or to Holly 65, Navidad 781 or Holiday Soul 778 (for SiriusXM users) for 24 hours of holiday tunes this holiday season.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH



Lyft and United Way Job Access Program

Detroit residents can now access a free ride through Lyft and United Way. Call 211 (or 800-552-1183) to schedule a ride from any location in Detroit to another location in Detroit for a job interview, public assistance/benefit appointment (DHHS, Social Security office), or to a food pantry for free. If you utilize this program for a job interview follow up with United Way to access the program for an additional 3 weeks of rides to and from your new job.



SADO INVITES YOU TO
OUR

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Join us to share space with friends and
members of the community before the start
of the new year.

Friends & family welcome.

This event is dedicated to the memory of our
friend Eric Cammon.

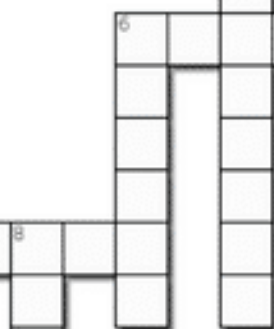
SUNDAY DEC. 8 • 3-5 PM
645 GRISWOLD ST.
33RD FLOOR DETROIT, MI 48226

PLEASE RSVP TO MARILENA DAVID-MARTIN AT
MDAVID@SADO.ORG OR 313-670-0309



November

CROSSWORD & TREATS!



Across

2. You can eat it on or off the cob
3. A great day to spend it with _____
4. In what season do we celebrate Thanksgiving?
6. Thanksgiving falls on this day of the week
7. Turkeys make what sound?

Down

1. I like to put _____ on my mashed potatoes
3. We will watch the _____ game on Thanksgiving Day
5. Holiday pie
6. The Thanksgiving bird
8. A deep red vegetable

PECAN PIE BROWNIES

Cook time: 45 min Prep time: 10 min Serving: 20 min

Ingredients:

Brownie Mix	Vanilla Extract
Flour	Pecans
Sugar	Eggs
Corn Syrup	

For Filling:

1 cup Sugar
1 1/2 cups Light Corn syrup
4 Eggs
1/4 cup Unsalted butter
1 1/2 teaspoon Vanilla extract
2 cups Pecans, roughly chopped

Directions:

- Preheat oven according to brownie package instructions.
- Combine the sugar, corn syrup, eggs, butter, and vanilla in a small saucepan and cook over medium heat stirring often.
- Pour brownie batter into a greased 13x9 inch pan and place in oven to bake for 20 minutes.
- As the brownies bake the filling in the saucepan should have thickened enough to coat your spoon (about 15 minutes). Stir the pecans into the mixture and continue to cook for 2-3 minutes until the mixture reaches the consistency of runny oatmeal. You want it to be loose enough to pour over the brownies but not liquid.
- When the brownies have finished pre-baking remove them from the oven and pour the pecan pie filling over them spreading it out to cover the brownies completely. Place them back in the oven and bake for 25-30 minutes or until the filling only jiggles slightly in the middle when you move the pan.

Note: You'll want the brownies to bake for half of the bake time listed on the back of the box before adding the cooked pie filling and continuing to bake until the filling is set.

